WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information management method in an information processing system including a network capable for

5   dealing with information such as images, music, voice and documents in large volumes at high speeds, comprising the steps of:

when connecting a removable storage medium having a program storage area storing programs and an information

10 storage area storing information, to an information processing unit such as a computer on the network,

selectively displaying header thumb-nail images corresponding to commercial information such as images, music, voice and documents stored by said storage medium

15 in the information storage area thereof by operating programs stored by said storage medium in the program storage area thereof by said information processing unit; and

calling and displaying of corresponding commercial

20 information, and/or purchase of information corresponding to said commercial information, and/or purchase of information corresponding to said commercial information, and/or connection to, or registration of, a service provider on the network corresponding to said

25 commercial information, in accordance with selection and instruction of thumb-nail images desired by the operator.

2. An information management method according to claim 1,
wherein said method comprises, when purchasing
information corresponding to said commercial information,
5   downloading the purchased information into the
information storage area of said storage medium, or
permitting a commodity purchase procedure of the
purchased information, and when downloading the
purchased information in the information storage area of
10 said storage medium, registering the header thumb-nail
image corresponding to said downloaded information in
the information storage area of said storage medium.

3. An information management method according to claim 1,
15 wherein said method comprises, when connecting to the
service provider or registration thereof corresponding
to said commercial information, downloading the
commercial information of said service provider into the
information storage area of said storage medium, and
20 registering a header thumb-nail image corresponding to
said commercial information in the information storage
area of said storage medium.

4. An information management method according to claim 1,
25 comprising the steps of further storing information
prepared by the operator such as images, music, voice

and documents in the information storage area of said
storage medium, selectively displaying header thumb-nail
images, and reading out and displaying said information
in the same manner as in said commercial information.

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5. An information management method according to claim 1,
wherein said commercial information includes at least
one of a still picture, an animation and voice.

10 6. An information management method according to claim 5,
wherein said animation includes video information, and
said voice includes music information.

7. An information management method according to claim 1,
15 wherein said commercial information includes at least
one of network registration and contract information,
various contracts information, current affairs
information, bicycle race and horse race information,
cooking information, fortune-telling information,
20 calendar information, home page information, guide
information, sales information and rental information.

8. An information management method according to claim 7,
wherein said guide information includes sight-seeing
25 guide, shopping guide, book guide, education guide,
employment guide, housing guide, event guide, marriage

guide and fashion guide.

9. An information processing system including a network,
capable of processing information of images, voice and
5   documents in large volumes at high speeds, comprising:

    a removable storage medium having a program storage
area storing programs and an information storage area
storing information; and an information processing unit,
such as a computer on the network, dismountably mounting
10 said storage medium;

    wherein said information processing unit comprises,
when said storage medium is inserted,

        display means selectively displaying a header
thumb-nail image corresponding to commercial information
15 such as images, music, voice and documents stored by
said storage medium in the information storage area
thereof by operating a program stored by said storage
medium in the program storage area thereof; and

        service starting means for calling and
20 displaying of the corresponding commercial information,
and/or purchase of information corresponding to said
commercial information, and/or connection to, or
registration of, a service provider on the network
corresponding to said commercial information, in
25 accordance with selection and instruction of a desired
thumb-nail image by the operator.

10. An information processing system according to claim 9, wherein, when purchasing information corresponding to said commercial information, said system further comprises:

    means for taking commodity purchasing procedure of information to be purchased;

    means for downloading the purchased information into the information storage area of said storage medium when the purchased information can be downloaded; and

    means for registering the header thumb-nail image corresponding to said downloaded information in the information storage area of said storage medium when downloading the purchased information in the information storage area of said storage medium.

11. An information processing system according to claim 9, wherein, when connecting to, or registering, a service provider corresponding to said commercial information, said system further comprises:

    means for downloading commercial information of said service provider onto the information storage area of said storage medium; and

    means for registering the header thumb-nail image corresponding to said commercial information in the information storage area of said storage medium.

12. An information processing system according to claim 9, wherein said storage medium further stores information prepared by the operator such as images, music, voice and documents in the information storage area thereof;

said display means selectively displays the header thumb-nail image corresponding to said information; and

said service starting means reads out and displays said information like· obtaining said commercial information in accordance with selection and instruction of the desired thumb-nail image by the operator.

13. A removable storage medium having a storage section comprising a program storage area storing programs and an information storage area storing information, and an electronic circuit section mounting electronic circuits processing information, storing:

commercial information such as images, music, voice and documents, and thumb-nail information corresponding to said commercial information in said information storage area; and a program storage area, storing:

a first program module which selectively displays a header thumb-nail image corresponding to the commercial information such as images, music, voice and documents stored by said storage medium in the information storage

area thereof, through operation of a program stored by
said storage medium in the program storage area thereof
by said information processing unit such as a computer;
and

5   a second program module for calling and displaying
of commercial information, and/or purchase of
information corresponding to said commercial information,
and/or connection to, or registration of, a service
provider on the network corresponding to said commercial
10   information, in accordance with selection and
instruction of a thumb-nail image desired by the
operator,

          in said program storage area.

15   14. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said
second program module comprises, when information
corresponding to said commercial information is
purchased, the steps of downloading the purchased
information in the information storage area of said
20   storage medium, and registering a header thumb-nail
image corresponding to said downloaded information in
the information storage area of said storage medium.

15. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein,
25   when connection to, or registration of, a service
provider corresponding to said commercial information

has been done, said second program module comprises the steps of downloading the commercial information of said service provider into the information storage area of said storage medium, and registering a header thumb-nail image corresponding to said commercial information in the information storage area of said storage medium.

16. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein the information storage area of said storage medium further stores information such as images, music, voice and documents prepared by an operator; and said first program module comprises the step of selectively displaying the header thumb-nail image corresponding to said information, and said second program module comprises the step of reading out and displaying said information like said commercial information in accordance with selection and instruction of a thumb-nail image desired by the operator.

17. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said storage medium has a special read-only area and a writable area.

18. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said program storage area further stores a bootstrap program and a system program which is read out by said bootstrap

program and controls said first and second program
modules.

19. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said
storage medium is an optical disk.